

III

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S. RES. 449

Expressing the sense of the Senate with respect to human rights violations in connection with the construction of the trans-Siberian pipeline.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

AUGUST 17, 1982

Mr. ARMSTRONG submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of the Senate with respect to human rights violations in connection with the construction of the trans-Siberian pipeline.

Whereas the Soviet Union is proceeding with its plan to build the trans-Siberian pipeline, known as the Yamal pipeline;

Whereas there is Senate testimony that massive use of forced labor may be used by the Soviet Union to complete its construction;

Whereas there are first-hand dissident reports that there are four to seventeen million Soviet citizens now being held in some two thousand work camps in the Soviet Union and that there are persistent published reports of agreements to deport forcibly up to a half-million laborers from Vietnam to Soviet Union concentration camps in direct violation of international agreements;

Whereas the Vietnamese Government under the 1973 Paris Peace Agreements which were signed by former Secretary of State Rogers and North Vietnamese Foreign Minister Nguyen Duy Trinh guaranteed freedom of residence and freedom of work;

Whereas there is concern that political prisoners from Poland and other Soviet satellite countries may also be forced to work on the Yamal pipeline;

Whereas there have been estimates by Soviet dissidents of enormous loss of lives of workers forced to do the heavy, dirty, dangerous work in Soviet labor camps under subhuman conditions;

Whereas if allegations of forced labor prove to be true, the participation of the West in furnishing either technology or financing to make the construction of the pipeline possible is tantamount to unwitting collaboration by the West in one of the most massive abuses of human rights in history;

Whereas the United States stands, as it has always stood, in the forefront of the struggle for freedom and dignity of every human being: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That it is the sense of the Senate that—

2 (1) the Secretary of State should—

3 (A) investigate the extent to which forced
4 labor will be employed and human rights violated
5 in the construction of the trans-Siberian pipeline
6 and to cooperate with other Western nations
7 which also seek to investigate such violations; and

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1 (B) report back to the Congress within thirty
2 days with his preliminary findings and with a final
3 report by January 1, 1983;
4 (2) the heads of the appropriate Federal agencies
5 should take the steps necessary to assure that the
6 United States is abiding by existing treaties respecting
7 the importation of goods produced with slave labor.

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